

States. The Honorable Marvin Mandel, Speaker of the House of Delegates, was elected Governor and he assumed the position on that same day.

### A HISTORY OF THE 1969 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly met in regular session on January 15, 1969. The session adjourned on March 25, 1969.

A total of 2,277 bills were introduced in 1969, of which 798 were Senate bills and 1,479 were House bills. Of the 798 Senate bills, 295 were passed by both Houses and of this latter number 289 were signed by the Governor and 6 were vetoed. Of the 1,479 bills introduced in the House, 539 were passed by both Houses and of this latter number 514 were signed by the Governor and 25 were vetoed.

A total of 146 joint resolutions were introduced, 60 being in the Senate and 86 in the House. Of these totals, 20 Senate joint resolutions and 27 House joint resolutions were passed by both Houses.

The budget bill enacted at this session for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1970, amounted to approximately \$1,336,537,133. The bond construction bill passed at this session was for a total amount of \$57,453,600.

Among the most important laws enacted at the 1969 session were: A bill revising the probate and testamentary laws of the State, a bill providing for a general election in November, 1969, for the adoption or rejection of amendments to the Constitution, although the act was later declared unconstitutional by the Maryland Court of Appeals; bills creating new Departments of Health and Mental Hygiene, Natural Resources, State Planning, and Budget and Fiscal Planning; a bill increasing the scope of the Human Relations Commission; a bill increasing the rates of the Retail Sales Tax; a bill creating the Housing and Community Development Authority to develop low and moderate income housing; a bill providing a contributory pension plan for certain judges; and a bill providing an additional grounds for divorce within the State.

A number of proposals were made to amend the Constitution of Maryland. Among the more important were those creating the Office of Lieutenant Governor; allowing the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint the judges of the Court of Appeals, intermediate courts of appeals, Circuit Courts, and the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City; and reorganization of the Executive Department, and the extension of the annual legislative session from seventy (70) to ninety (90) days.

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